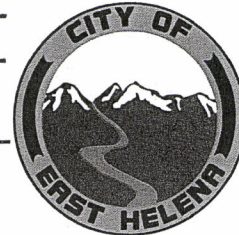


SENATE EDUCATIONExhibit No. 6Date 1/19/15Bill No. SB 107

City of East Helena

Mayor
James Schell

Council Members
Terrie Casey
Don Dahl
Kit Johnson
Judy Leland

City Attorney
Mike Rieley

City Clerk
Sandra Milsten

Deputy Clerk
Susan Spotorno

**Public Works
Director**
Scott St. Clair

Chief of Police
Dale Aschim

Fire Chief
Elroy Golemon

City Judge
Dennis Loveless

**P.O. Box 1170
East Helena
Montana 59635**

City Offices
406-227-5321

City Fax
406-227-5456

Police Admin.
406-227-8686

January 16, 2015

Senator Mark Blasdel
Senate Education and Cultural Resources Committee
PO Box 200500
Helena, MT 59620-0500

Dear Vice Chairman Blasdel,

The City of East Helena supports Senate Bill 107, "Revise K-12 school district expansion laws".

One of the many great assets that the City of East Helena has is our school district. We are all very proud of every aspect of our local East Helena School District (EHSD), and the number of students requesting attendance from outside of this district bears out the quality and integrity of EHSD No. 9. The City and the EHSD work very well together and have a long history of collaboration and coordination.

The City of East Helena believes that the current law, which mandates that a K-8 district cannot expand into a K-12 district, suppresses the rights of local school boards with input from the citizens in the district, to ultimately decide on their own expansion. We believe that the local school district and the people within the district should be given the opportunity to decide on expanding their own district and determine if a high school is what is best for our children.

A late 2014 public opinion poll by the Montana Public Education Center (MPEC), a joint initiative of a consortium including the MEA-MFT, the Montana Quality Education Coalition, and the Montana School Boards Association, have several relevant questions that must be considered when determining who should decide to expand a K-8 district to a K-12 district. (see attached, all slides available at www.mt-pec.org)

In this MPEC poll, when asked which public officials are most trusted when it comes to deciding what is best academically for students in Montana's public schools, Montana voters chose "Local Elected School Boards" with 27.1% of the total poll question vote, second only to "Classroom Teachers".

In another question in the MPEC poll, when asked if state and federal mandates are too burdensome, Montana voters opined that mandates are "Too Burdensome" garnering 57.4% of the poll vote.

The City of East Helena strongly believes that our local school district board of trustees with the opinions and advice of the district community members should decide on whether to expand our school district and potentially move forward with adding a new high school.

Please support local community involvement and please support SB107.

Sincerely,

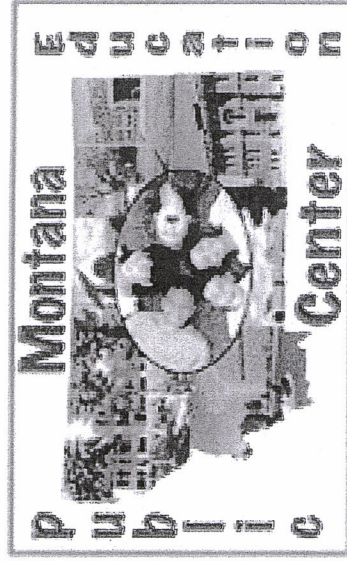
James Schell
City of East Helena Mayor
P.O. Box 1170 East Helena, MT 59635
406-465-2921 - jschelleh@gmail.com



We Support Fair Housing

Equal Opportunity Employer

MT



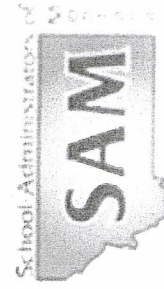
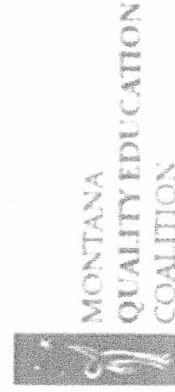
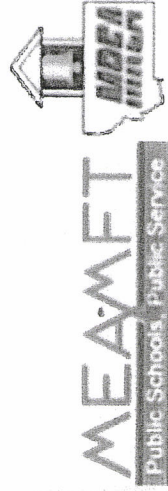
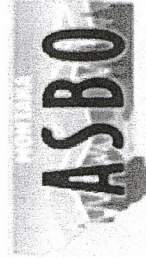
PEC

Montana voters support K-12 Public Education!

A K-12 Issue Spotlight

Summary of polling results commissioned
by the Montana Public Education Center,
late August 2014

The Montana Public Education Center is a joint initiative of the following groups



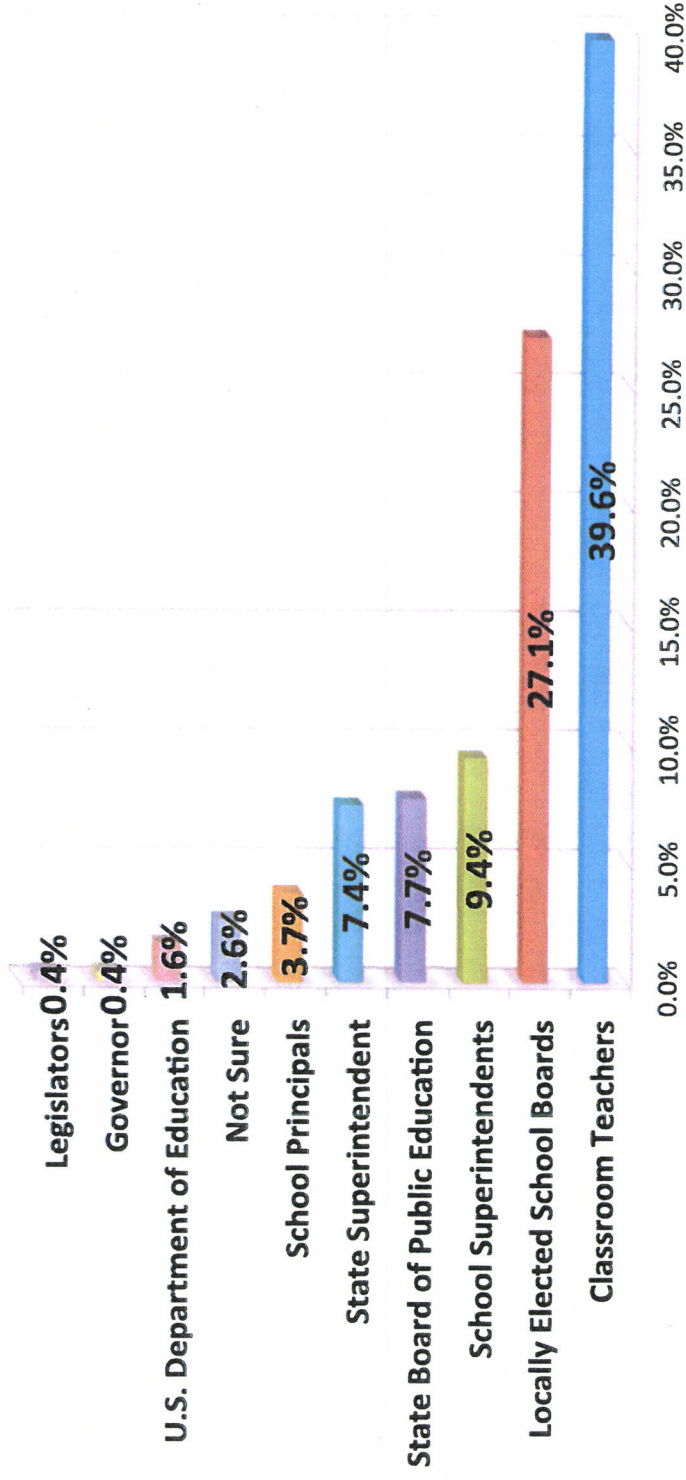
Source and Methodology

- Poll jointly commissioned by the Montana Public Education Center, a joint initiative of the following groups:
 - Montana Association of School Business Officials
 - MEA-MFT
 - Montana Quality Education Coalition
 - Montana Rural Education Association
 - Montana School Boards Association
 - School Administrators of Montana
- Poll conducted by Zogby Analytics, an international polling firm that has been the most accurate in presidential elections since 1996.
- Live operator telephone survey of 500 likely voters in Montana, conducted August 11-22, 2014.
- Margin of Error of +/- 4.5%.

VOTERS TRUST EDUCATORS MOST!

Who among the following public employees and officials do you trust the most when it comes to deciding what is best academically for students in Montana's public schools?

**WHO DO MONTANA VOTERS TRUST TO DO WHAT IS BEST
ACADEMICALLY FOR STUDENTS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS?**



VOTERS BELIEVE STATE AND FEDERAL MANDATES ARE TOO BURDENSOME

MONTANA VOTERS' OPINIONS ON STATE AND FEDERAL MANDATES

